

EMLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
of Medical Officer for Year ending
December 31st, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1914.

Population (Census 1911)	...	...	...	1,622
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	375
Area in Acres	...	...	...	3,556

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.—40 were registered in the District, of which one was illegitimate. This means a birth-rate of 24.1. These figures are slightly greater than those for the year 1913.

21 were males and 19 females.

The total deaths under 1 year of age were 3, of which 2 were registered in the District. Death occurred at the ages of a few hours, a few days, and 5 months, respectively, from prematurity, from convulsions, and from broncho-pneumonia. One death was that of an illegitimate infant. The mortality rate per 1,000 births was 75.

DEATHS.—The total number registered in the District was 17, giving a rate of 10.24; with 2 transferable deaths added there is a nett death-rate at all ages of 11.44, compared with 14.0 for England and Wales, and 13.4 for England and Wales less the 242 towns.

Of the 19 nett deaths, 9 occurred in the useful age period of 15 to 65, which is rather a large proportion. 5 occurred at ages above 65, 3 above 70 years, and 2 above 80 years.

2 deaths were registered as due to Influenza—one, an infant (with pneumonia), and one adult. Tuberculosis is given as the cause of 2 deaths, of which one was a case of Phthisis. There was one fatal accident. In addition to this, two other sudden deaths were the subjects of inquests.

Infectious Diseases.

3 Notifications of Tuberculosis were received. One of pulmonary affection left for Sanatorium treatment, and the housing and other conditions were inspected and recorded in connection with the notification and reported on in connection with the National Insurance Act. One of local Tuberculosis was notified from School; and one fatal case of Meningitis was recorded.

In these likewise the history and environments of the cases were made the subject of enquiry.

29 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, of which 24 were removed to Hospital. These were due to a persistence of the infection of the District, which was reported for 1913, and which subsided at the beginning of September, the characteristics having remained the same. No deaths were recorded from this cause. 4 cases belonged to one household, and in two instances 2 cases to one household. The notifications for each month were as follows:—January 3, February 4, March 6, April 2, May 5, June 0, July 2, August 0, September 6, October 0, November 0, December 1.

In February I visited the British School, and examined all the children, paying special attention to all who had had Scarlet Fever and to those from houses where it had occurred and to all recent absentees, and found no apparently infectious cases. On Feb. 18th it was decided to close both Schools for cleansing and disinfection till March 2nd.

During this time no cases occurred amongst the children. After re-opening the Schools, a small crop of cases at once occurred. One case was reported from School the first day, and followed up and removed to Hospital. The manner of the outbreaks all confirmed the cause of the continuance as being direct transmission through very slightly marked cases. There was no difficulty as regards accommodation in the Isolation Hospital at Kirkburton.

Housing.

It is difficult, in connection with this work, to keep accurate tabular statistics, owing to somewhat informal methods being employed in dealing with reported defects. It has been found, in justification of this informality, that, up

till recently, the Council has been able to get its requirements with regard to defects carried out by owners with readiness. There are cases which present some difficulty in classification, e.g., those of old cottages with certainly more than minor defects, yet which one hesitates to brand as unfit for habitation so long as they are still tenanted by elderly people who have spent many years in them. I think the proper course to pursue with these, in the absence of gross sanitary offence, is to leave old tenants in occupation, if they desire it, and to insist on re-construction or demolition when present tenancies expire. No re-letting of old property with ineradicable defects of lighting and ventilation and with ground damp should be tolerated. There may be, therefore, a few instances of cottages classed as unfit for habitation, about which delay in action is justified.

In August of 1914 your Inspector presented a report on the inspection of 48 houses in Church Street (the old part of the village). At your request, I considered this report.

I arranged to inspect all the defective premises, along with your Inspector, which I did in the same month. Thereafter, I conferred with your Council, and presented the results of the joint inspection. I had previously inspected other 4 houses. At your request, I met the representative of the owner of some of the property concerned, and examined the conditions reported. As a result, I expect that defects in this property capable of remedy will receive it before the end of 1915.

The conditions found in connection with the 48 inspections were as follows :—

I. In one building, consisting of 3 cottages, the building, as a whole, was deficient in guttering, spouting, lighting, ventilation, and drainage, and was mainly below the ground level in its ground floor. One of the houses was empty, and was represented as totally unfit for habitation and fit for closure.

No closing order was made.

Action with regard to the other two was deferred pending consideration of probability of re-construction of the entire building.

II. In another block of property, one small house was represented as unfit for habitation, and was closed. In connection with 2 houses in the same block there was deficient closet accommodation. An additional closet was built. The ventilation in one of the latter houses was bad, as the windows did not open. This was remedied. There was overcrowding in the last house—this was abated, as the tenants left. In another house, which consisted of two apartments, it was rather dark, both above and below, and there was overcrowding, 4 children and 2 adults in a low room. No action was taken before the end of the year.

III. In another block of property, one house had a closet built against the scullery wall behind. By removal of this and placing a window in the scullery, the lighting of scullery and through ventilation of house could be improved. In this house, also, as in that next door, there were undesirable sleeping conditions. The agent for the property undertook to make structural alterations which would remedy all the detrimental conditions pointed out.

IV. In another block of 4 cottages, there was the general defect of being below the ground level behind and of having little or no through ventilation and of being dark. Two were represented as unfit for habitation, but closure was deferred, owing to the tenants being elderly and having lived there many years. In one of these houses there was overcrowding (5 adults in one room); this was reported, but no action was ordered.

V. In another house, of 3 rooms, two were utilised for sleeping, one being occupied by 2 males and 2 females over 12 years and one male under 12 years, whilst the parents and a younger child slept in the kitchen. As these arrangements were undesirable and also amounted to overcrowding, it was decided to notify the tenant to increase the sleeping accommodation. This notification was not done before the end of the year.

In addition to defective closet facilities already mentioned, there were 2 other cases of too great proximity to dwellings. No action was ordered : also another case of deficient accommodation—one privy to 3 houses. A notice was sent in this case, but not complied with, and no action followed. 2 houses required sink traps; informal notices were sent and complied with.

In addition to the 48 inspections, 4 others revealed the need of guttering and spouting to a row of cottages, and, in one of them, overcrowding—8 persons sleeping in one room, 14 by 14 feet, half of them above 12 years old. These were reported, but no action was taken.

Included in the 48 inspections in Church Street were 14 cases of uncovered ashpits. Two small cottages closed before the end of 1913 remain closed; no demolition has taken place (Church Street). Remaining over from 1913 were 3 cases of unsatisfactory privy conditions in Warburton, classed by the Sanitary Inspector as nuisances.

I trust that these, along with the others reported this year to the Council, will all be rectified before the end of 1915. Such defects must not be allowed to remain, as they constitute a serious weakness in the sanitary system and a grievance amongst occupiers.

19 new cottages were completed during 1914.

WATER SUPPLY.—An important development was the building of a reservoir on Emley Moor. This will hold 30,000 gallons, which is about 3 days' supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—A complaint was received from the Rivers Board about the sink waste from a cottage being discharged into a stream. A notice to stop this was served and followed by compliance.

SEWERAGE.—3 new settling-tanks were made at Scott's Croft, and a sludge bed erected. This provides a much better effluent and cleaner filter beds. The beds at Broomhall would likewise be more efficient if there were an extension of the settling-tank arrangements there.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, was adopted by the County during 1914 and in this District; the District Nurse has acted in connection with it. No complaint as to insanitary conditions has been received from this Officer.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, has no further application than heretofore, viz., to one private dressmaker.

Appended are Tables I., II., III., IV., and County Table C.

WILLIAM BELL, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE I.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncor-rected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Resi-dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate					Num-ber	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Num-ber	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		13
1909	1465	50	50	34.12	23	15.7			3	60	23	15.7
1910	1470	43	43	29.2	17	11.56	2		3	69.7	17	11.56
1911	1622	39	39	24.04	19	11.71	3	4	7	179.5	20	12.33
1912	1630	34	34	20.8	12	7.36		4	0		16	9.8
1913	1640	39	39	23.78	19	11.58		3	6	153.8	22	13.41
1914	1660	40	40	24.1	17	10.24		2	3	75	19	11.44

TABLE II.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.					TOTAL CASES Removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.		25 & under 45 years.
Erysipelas	1				1	24 1	
Scarlet Fever	29		8	19	2		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1				1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2			2			
Totals	33		8	21	2	25	

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.							
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 Year.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
All Causes Certified	19	3	1	1	1	3	5	5
Influenza	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Organic Heart Disease	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	4	...	1	...	...	1	1	1
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	19	3	1	1	1	3	5	5

TABLE IV. Infant Mortality.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age.					
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	3-6 Month	6-9 Month	9-12 Month	Total
All Causes Certified	1	1	1	...	...	3
Convulsions ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...
Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
All Causes	1	1	1	...	...	3

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate 39 ; illegitimate 1.

Nett Deaths in the the year of :—Legitimate infants 2 ; illegitimate infants 1.

TABLE C. 1914.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the past year a new reservoir has been constructed on Emley Moor, and the quality of the water has proved highly satisfactory throughout the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New settling tanks have been constructed at Scott's Croft, and the defective sewer in Church Street is still rubble-drained. There were no complaints as to bad smells. The number of sink-wastes disconnected during 1914 was 2; trapped, 2. There are now no sink-wastes reported needing disconnection; and none untrapped.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The number of privies with open middens was 39; number of pail or tub closets, 1; number of privies with covered middens, all others; number of water closets, 17 (including School); number of additional closets provided for old property in 1914, water-closets 0, other closets 1; number of closets constructed in 1914 for new houses—water closets 0, other 19.

SCAVENGING.

The refuse is not treated by a destructor, but tipped by farmers, the total annual cost being £20 and £50 (closets). Scavenging is regularly attended to, and showed no change during the year 1914.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

There have been no inspections during 1914, except housing inspections; statutory notices served, 1, complied with; total number of nuisances in hand at close of 1913, 7; at close of 1914, 3 (closets); number of nuisances reported during 1914, 1; abated during 1914, 5.

SCHOOLS.

There are two Elementary Schools in the district. As to number of visits to Schools and action taken, see report.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under Food & Drugs Act, 0; number of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination, 0; veterinary inspection of dairy cows, 0; number of animals notified by Police during 1914 under Tuberculosis Order, 1913, 0; disease attributed to milk in 1914, 0; number of cowkeepers in district, 52; number registered, 19; number of milk sellers who are also cowkeepers, 19; number who are purveyors only, 0; total number of cowsheds, 61; number of inspections in 1914, 43; general condition satisfactory; approximate number of milch cows in district, 224; insufficiency in milk supply, 0; legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders, 0; inspection or other action by districts to which milk is sent, 0.

OTHER FOODS.

Number of samples (other than milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food & Drugs Acts, 0; number of seizures of unsound food, 0; number of slaughter-houses, 3; number registered, 3; kind and condition, good, private; number of prosecutions (a) Food & Drugs 0, (b) unsound food 0, (c) *re* slaughter-houses 0.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There were no smoke nuisances, and no smoke observations taken.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There were no new Acts adopted during 1914.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were prevalent in 1914 cases of Scarlet Fever only, and as to special action to combat same, see report.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND INVESTIGATIONS.

Housing in Church Street.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Inspection of patient's home and workshop, examination for contacts, disinfection, and sputum have been carefully investigated. With regard to spitting, no action has been taken.

BACTERIOLOGY.

The County Laboratory has been utilized.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The District Nursing Association is responsible for the infants, as there is no Baby Clinic, Baby's Welcome, or Mothers' League in existence in this district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births registered during 1914 were :—Males, 21; females, 19; total, 40; number of illegitimate included in above, 1; number of still-births (not included), 0. Deaths during 1914 :—(1). Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, total actually registered in the district *without any correction*, 17; (2). Nett deaths on which the rates are calculated, males 9, females 10, total 19; number of uncertified deaths (included above), 0.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There is no mortuary accommodation for accidents, neither is there any for infectious cases other than at Hospital. A burial ground is in existence, and there is no need for extension.

SANITARY STAFF.

The present annual salary of the Medical Officer of Health is £12. The Sanitary Inspector is Mr. Sidney Gill, with an annual salary of £21; other appointments held, Surveyor; salary for such other appointments, £57: he has no assistants, and in consequence there is not sufficient assistance at hand always.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1914.

Action under P.H. Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 15, owing to the tenancy having commenced before December 3rd, 1909				Action under Section 17										Houses with defects, not disposed of at end of 1914		
Houses found with defects	Houses made fit after preliminary notice	Houses in regard to which notices were served to remedy defects	Houses made fit after notice	Houses found to be totally unfit for habitation	Houses represented to Local Authority as being totally unfit for human habitation	Houses made fit for human habitation without the issue of a closing order	Houses closed voluntarily	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made	Houses closed as unfit for human habitation after closing orders were made	Houses made fit for human habitation after closing order was made, for which the Local Authority determined the order	Houses demolished voluntarily	Houses for which demolition orders were made	Houses demolished compulsorily	Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation (Section 15)	Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts)	Houses totally unfit for human habitation (Section 17)
10	3	6	3	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	—	7	3